

APP. NO. 10/689,404

AMENDMENT DATED: MAY 6, 2005

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION OF APRIL 11, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of Claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, the Prescribed Method, for identifying the motion of a metal object at an elevated temperature using imaging technologies based on tracking the irregular and unique surface marks on the said metal object that

the said surface marks are formed by the oxidation process on the surface of the said metal object;

the said tracking is accomplished by identifying the locations of the selected surface marks in different images that are taken at known different time instances;

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the said ~~measurement is accomplished~~ motion is identified by comparing the location differences and time differences of the selected surface marks in different images;

~~wherein~~ where, in the Prescribed Method, clocking ~~may be~~ is used for the timing of image acquisition so that time-dependent measurements such as the velocity of the said metal object can be obtained.

2. (Currently Amended) The tracking method in Claim 1 ~~can be~~ is gray-scale pattern match.

3. (Currently Amended) The tracking method in Claim 1 ~~can be~~ is contour-based pattern match.

4. (Currently Amended) The tracking method in Claim 1 ~~can be~~ is geometrical search.

5. (Currently Amended) The Prescribed Method in Claim 1 ~~can be~~ is implemented in software.

6. (Currently Amended) The Prescribed Method in Claim 1 ~~can be~~ is implemented in electronic hardware.

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7. (Currently Amended) An optical system for movement measurement and position tracking of long, non-textured metal objects at an elevated temperature comprising:

an image capturing device for imaging the said object;

an image processing unit for processing the images captured from the said object;

wherein the said image processing unit processes the images based on the Prescribed Method in Claim 1.

8. (Original) An optical system as recited in Claim 7, wherein the optical system includes a CCD camera.

9. (Original) An optical system as recited in Claim 7, wherein the optical system includes a CMOS camera.